**PRIMARY CARE**

We offer three distinct Special Study Modules in Primary Care. They reflect the great diversity of work carried out by GPs in Oxford and beyond.

For the majority of people in the UK, interaction with healthcare professionals happens almost entirely outside of hospital. Ninety per cent of all patient contacts in the NHS occur in general practice. These SSMs will help you to build on your previous student experiences of Primary Care, in order to further understand and enjoy the exciting challenges of caring for patients closer to their homes.

**The SSMs are as follows:**

* **Primary Care and Homelessness**
* **Primary Care in East Oxford**
* **Primary Care with a Special Interest**

Each has an individual course coordinator, different location and separate joining instructions. Please see each entry below.

**PRIMARY CARE AND HOMELESSNESS**

Max. No. of Students per Course: 2

Course Coordinator(s)

Dr Rob Schafer [robin.schafer@nhs.net](mailto:robin.schafer@nhs.net)

Location

Luther Street Medical Centre, Oxford City Centre. Luther Street Medical Centre (LSMC) is Oxford’s primary care centre for people experiencing homelessness. LSMC has a tight knit team of clinical and non-clinical staff who work closely together with other agencies to provide health and social care to this fascinating group of patients who typically struggle with mainstream medical services.

Additional Comment(s)

It doesn’t matter whether you have or haven’t attended LSMC during your GP block.

Taking up a special study placement at LSMC involves becoming part of the team for the placement. The placement involves completing a project of direct relevance to the work of the surgery. You will also spend time with different members of the LSMC team to understand the team delivery of healthcare in this context. Your exact project will be chosen to take into account your learning interests as well as current issues facing LSMC. Previous projects have included:

* Personality Disorder
* Motivational Interviewing
* The experience of the homeless patient in hospital
* Why specialist services for people experiencing homelessness – the patient perspective
* The neuropsychiatric consequences of alcohol misuse.

Future projects will be drawn from one of the following themes relating to the care of patients experiencing homelessness:

* Personality Disorder
* Chronic disease
* Alcohol misuse
* Drug misuse
* Mental illness
* Sexual health
* Recovery

This is a real opportunity to develop understanding of the issues facing this group of patients as well as an introduction to the skills and knowledge required to manage complex socio-medical issues. This will be useful whatever clinical path you are taking. It is especially relevant to those thinking about careers in general practice, psychiatry and addiction psychiatry, emergency medicine, infectious disease, hepatology and public health.

**NB In 2019-2020 the practice is involved in regional personality disorder training for GPs, so SSMs in 2020 are planned to be a joint SSM with the Complex Needs Service. This will give a unique experience in the management and treatment of personality disorder**.

**Joining Instructions**

**As soon as your Luther Street placement has been confirmed by the Medical School, please contact the Course Coordinator, Dr Rob Schafer (robin.schafer@nhs.net), and give him a contact telephone number.** Dr Schafer will then contact you to discuss what project you will be doing during the attachment.

This SSM is based at Luther Street Medical Centre, Luther Street, Oxford City Centre OX1 1TD. Luther Street Medical Centre is at the bottom of Cromwell Street, which is the first left off Speedwell Street, when coming from St Aldates. We are the smaller building adjacent to O'Hanlon House hostel. The front door will be locked so please ring the doorbell.

Meet at 8.30am on the first Monday of the attachment at Luther Street Medical Centre, with Dr Rob Schafer, unless you have been advised differently. Please bring your ID badge, and dress practically as the placement may involve walking around the city centre.

**PRIMARY CARE IN EAST OXFORD**

**Max. No. of Students per Course: 2**

**Course Coordinator(s):**  Dr Andreas Kyrris andreas.kyrris@nhs.net

East Oxford is characterised by high levels of social deprivation, immigration and addictions. Many medical students do not get an opportunity to work with this challenging and interesting group of patients during their training. Previous students attached to the practice for this SSM have found it an eye-opening and very rewarding experience. You will have an opportunity to see patients in your own surgeries as well as visit partner organisations, depending on your interests. You will be supervised throughout by one of the GPs and have the opportunity for one-to-one teaching about the patients you see as well as define your own learning objectives.

**Assessment**

Assessment will be based on adequate attendance and demonstrating a professional attitude when dealing with staff, patients and partner organisations. We will also be assessing your clinical skills and offering teaching and feedback on your consultations.

We would strongly encourage any interested students to contact us directly as we have the flexibility to adjust the SSM to address your interests. Examples from previous students include: refugee health, mental health, routine general practice clinics, long-term conditions, addictions, ‘over-diagnosis’ and ‘over-treatment’ as well as non-clinical areas such as NHS structures and funding, practice management and finance (Dr Kyrris is also practice manager).

**Primary Care in East Oxford: Joining Instructions**

On your first day you will have an introduction with Dr Andreas Kyrris at 9am. Location: Cowley Road Medical Practice, East Oxford Health Centre, Manzil Way, Oxford OX4 1XD. You will also have an opportunity to visit partner organisations in East Oxford.

**PRIMARY CARE WITH A SPECIAL INTERST**

**Max. No. of Students per Course: 2 (EACH ASSIGNED TO A DIFFERENT PRACTICE)**

**Course Coordinator(s) :**

Dr Alison Convey[**Alison.convey@phc.ox.ac.uk**](mailto:Alison.convey@phc.ox.ac.uk)

**Course Administrator(s)**

Ms Emma Wiley emma.wiley@phc.ox.ac.uk / 01865 289329

**Overview**

This SSM will give you experience of Primary Care in an Oxfordshire surgery. As well as providing opportunity to learn more about everyday General Practice, you are encouraged to let us know if you have any special interests. As far as possible, we will then tailor the module to meet your individual aims. In the past, students have focussed on areas such as Women’s Health, Dermatology and Paediatrics within the GP setting. Spending time with the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences to learn about Academic General Practice is also an option.

As a final year student, you will be seeing patients independently, supervised by a GP tutor. You will concentrate on the advanced skills which make primary care such a complex and rewarding job. These may include:

* Dealing with multi-morbidity and polypharmacy
* Managing the uncertainty inherent when seeing patients outside of hospital
* Analysing problems and formulating shared management plans
* Prescribing safely and cost-effectively
* Learning to liaise with and refer to other services, both in the community and in secondary care
* Taking part in a quality improvement project to enhance the care of patients

The module is an invaluable opportunity to further your understanding of primary care, whether you see your future career in the community or in a hospital specialty.

**Joining Instructions**

Once you have signed up for the module, we will contact you to ask about any special interests you may have. We will then find the most appropriate placement for you in a local GP practice, under the supervision of an experienced tutor. Before starting the attachment, you and your tutor will agree a timetable and programme of activities.

Please do contact Dr Alison Convey (details above) if you have any questions.